

[Swedish Lobsterman]

15070222 Yankee [Folk?] Massachusetts SWEDISH LOBSTERMAN CRAZY [SWEDE?]
As told to Henry [Wheeler?] 1

“Is das nicht ein crazy Swede? Ja, das ist ein crazy Swede.”

Sure I think they die. Why not? Look. The boat is no good. They no good. I don't mean they are not good boys. I mean they are not No good fishermen. They are not Not fishermen at all. Me. For forty-five years I go out in boats. I go in ships. Sail. Steam. [Diesel?]. Skiffs. But that afternoon I would not not get out. Any fool would not not get out. But Rudy and that Carter kid, they're smart! They're so God-damned smart they know more than the fishermen that go out every day in the year, more than me, more than the Coast Guard. They see the storm flags. They see the surf. But what they say? They say, “What the hell!” They say, “The fishermen are a bunch of old women. We'll go out off Halibut Point, get our trawl, make five, ten , maybe fifteen dollars to get drunk on tomorrow!” Well, they got drunk all right.

Drunk on salt water. Rudy gone, Carter kid gone, little dog gone.

Oh, I know how they felt. I was young once too. My father say, “You work hard, Gor, here on farm with me and brother. When I get old, brother get farm, but we give some land to you. Build house, build barn, everything all right!” All right, sure.

Not for me! That was near Halsingborg, my father's farm. Halsingborg big city, ten times big as Gloucester, bigger than Salem and Lynn all at once, almost thirty thousand people. I go to Halsingborg, I and other feller, work next farm. We look for work there. You work for father. some Some time long time get something. Right now get 2 work and lotta hell. Work somebody else, geta get dollar. But we don't not get work in Halsingborg, other feller and me. I'm fifteen then, he's maybe seventeen. We stay there two, three weeks, other

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feller go home. I go to Stockholm, two, three weeks, there nothing too. I have good time there, though. Good people. "Give me something to eat?" "Sure. Come home with me, we feed you, give you some pennies." Then I get job. All of a sudden I get job on ship. Big ship. Six-masted ship for [Hamburg?]. And that was funny thing, too. You look at map some time, see Atlantic ocean. Big, huh? See what they call Baltic Ocean. Not so big, huh? Like puddle. But ask anybody. Much worse storms in little Baltic Ocean. [stat?]

And we get the storm, too. My God! A month to get to [Hanburg?]. I thought sure honest I'm dead all through. We get there all right. That Captain! He Swede-feller, [?], strong, yellow beard. He laughed at storm. He like me, too. "Gor," he said, "you are smart boy.

You learn quick and you work hard. sailing is the best thing in the world for man to do, and Swede-feller best sailor in all the world. When we get to [Hanburg?] you stay on ship. I think we go on big trip, two, three year. When we get back to Sweden maybe you Captain, too!" So I stay with ship at [Hamburg?] and right off we go to Scotland, to Cardiff, Scotland for coal and we go then to Liverpool — that's in Scotland, too — for cotton goods. God, how we load up! Then we go around the world. We go everywhere.

Sebastopol, the capital of Russia, Rome — that's in Italy — then we go down around Cape and up to Madras, that's in India. They got canal now. [Women?] and horses pull the ships through. But no canal the, have to go around. 3 In that Madras place we unload everything in the boat, and wait for new cargo. We wait a month, six weeks, then Captain get telegram, go to Australia get sheep. Gor doesn't like that. My father's got sheep. I know sheep. They stink. All the time they stink. But sheep ain't all we got in Australia. We got something you never heard of. Something nobody never heard of. We got what they call kangazoo! All neck, that Kangazoo. The Captain didn't get any telegram say, "Ship kangazoo." Like hell! Captain meet man there in Australia.

Man say, "Here. I got kangazoo. Gotta go San Francisco in America to put in park. You take, get a thousand dollars." Captain say, "Sure."

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He don't know what the hell is kangazoo. But damn soon he find out!

We already sail maybe eleven, twelve o'clock. Down comes man. He's got kangazoo. And he's got paper Captain signed. Captain doesn't not know what to do. Man does, though. He just holds up paper. We don't not get away that Australia until four, five o'clock. We have to take forty, fifty sheep out of hold, lash sheep on deck. Break open deck hatch, put bottom of kangazoo in hold. Now we got seven masts. Kangazoo mast all by himself. Sheep stink worse than at home. Kangazoo stink louder than sheep!

Sure we get to San Francisco. No, kangazoo doesn't not die. Just six, eight of the sheep. God, that Captain glad to have empty ship once more. Pretty soon off he go with load of silver for China. Me! Hell, no. I don't go to China. Why you say that? I never go to China in my life. [I stay San Francisco.

I got job. I take care kangazoo.*1]

*1 I make money then. Fifteen dollars week. I feed him, put hose on him, put hose everywhere, every week fifteen dollar. Other time I go stay with Swede sailor-feller, walk aroun around , have beer, talk old country, 4 sometime cry. Rough city San Francisco. Everybody fight. Everybody drink, everybody fight. I fight too. There is place down water-front call him Anna's where lots Swede-fellers are. Anna fine woman. Swede woman. Beautiful woman. Six feet some more. Weight maybe three hundred.

Strong as horse. We go there all time joke with Anna, drink, sing Swede songs, all about time Swedes have war, lick [Norwegianians?], and about war lick [Denmarkers?], lick French, lick English. Good time everybody. Ann's Anna's best place all San Francisco.

Then Anna she die. She go out some morning get ham, get beef, get fish. Come home arms full everything when along comes team aroun around corner. Anna don't not see team. Feller on team don't not see Anna. Anna die.

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We have big funeral next day, every Swede-feller in San Francisco there. Lutheran minister there, fine feller, make everybody cry. Feller from Swedish king there, too. Bring flowers, make talk, Anna's husband dead back in Sweden brave feller, good soldier. Best funeral I ever see.

But when I got back that afternoon to park, boss says, "Bye-bye, Gor. You all through. You don't not feed kangazoo today. You don't not put hose on him." I tell him about Anna, about Anna's funeral, about Anna's husband, brave soldier, but boss say, "Too bad, Gor. No more job. Other feller take care kangazoo now. He take care bear, too, and lion. He give me pay, next week's pay, too. I got maybe twenty-five, thirty dollar.

Back to water-front I go, see couple Swede fellers, tell him no more job. They very sorry, say, "Maybe we go get drink, [?]" So we go.

But not to Anna's. Anna's no more. We meet couple more Swede fellers we go Irish place. We have beer. Good beer. We talk. About no more job for me. About no more Anna. About Sweden and poor Swede-fellers so far away. We start sing. We 5 start sing good song. All about war. Swede-fellers lick Norwegians, lick Denmarkers, lick French. All of sudden one Swede-feller start song about Swede-fellers lick Irish. I do not sing that song. I do not know that song. Irish-fellers in there they do not like that song.

Swede-fellers lick nobody that day. They got licked himself.

Well, says Swede-feller, where we go now? We go no more Irish place. Hell with Irish place! And no more Swede-place left. "I tell you what," says feller, "we go Chinese place. Not much money. Nice girls." "Like hell," says other feller. "Chinese no good.

They got knife. i don't not want Lutheran minister come make nice talk about me." But we go Chinese place just same.

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Fine place. Big pictures. Music. Good beer. All other Swede-fellers but me go with Chinese girls. I stay downstairs drink beer. I don't not like Chinese girls. Small, very small, very funny. While I drink beer, Chinese feller asks maybe I play game? I ask what kind of game? He tell me some game I never heard of, some game nobody ever heard of I guess. But I say, "What the hell? Job all gone . Anna all gone. Nobody like Swede feller. Sure, go ahead. We play." I don't not know yet what kind game is. Little blocks wood, big dice. Chinese feller, good feller, he keep score.

Sometime he say, "Oh, oh, you win," and other times, "Oh, oh, I win."

[Bimby?] two three hours other Swede-fellers come downstairs, say "Come on, Gor, we gotta go back ship." I tell Chinese feller I can't play game no more. He say all right, add up score, give me hundred fifty two dollars. First time I ever win money my life. Only time. Chinese feller say, "Come on back. Play some more." 6 I don't not play some more though. We get out in street, Swede-feller say, "Well, Gor, what you do know, harr?

No more kangazoo job, what you do?" I shake my head. I say, "I don't know, I got little money. Maybe I wait my captain comes back, then we go Sweden." Swede-feller laugh, "How you know he ever come back, harr? You ever sail steam-ship Gor?" I tell him, "No." I never did sail steam-ship. He laugh again, "That's all right," he say. "You come with me. We sail tonight, go New York. If mate ask you anything, " You say sure. You bet." So that's what I did. And that's how I got to New York.

II

In New York I don't not know what to do. I don't not want to sail any more . but that is all the trade I got. I make up my mind I have enough of sea. That is hard life, I say . the sea. All the time you work, then you come ashore. You spend your money, back to sea again. But what can I do? I have no Have no other trade. All I do back in Sweden in Halsingborg is just a little farming and that I do not like, either. So I am pretty sad. The only things I can

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do I do not want to do. By gosh, a long time I tell you I do not eat. For almost a month the only time I eat is when Swede feller he gives me five pennies for glass of beer. When I get beer I can get bread and ham and herring and cod fish eyes. Always I go same place. To German place. That eating with the beer is what they call the free lunch. They have better free lunch in the Irish place. But I do not like the Irish place. The Irish are crazy. After a while the German feller calls me, he says, "Hey, Swede-feller, how is it, hey? all the time you come in, just buy one beer and you eat like you buy ten? How is it, hey?" I tell him.

I tell that German feller. "I got no job," I tell him. "I got no money. Only money I have is when Swede-feller give me five pennies for beer." "Well," says that German feller, "I give you job harr! Better you do some work round her for what you eat than eat all you eat and do not work." 7 So he gives me a broom, that German, and he tells me I am the porter. The place Place where that saloon is on what they call the Third Avenue.

In New York everything is different. They do not have Curtis Street and Granite Street and Phillips Avenue. No. They have numbers. This place where the saloon is on what is Third Avenue. The place Place where I get room is on 89th Street.

It is a big old house, and the man who has it is a crazy French feller. Yes, he is. He is like a woman, that man. There are four, five, six, floors with four, five rooms everyone. The French feller he lives down cellar. All he does is go around house in big stockingslike, scrubbing and sweeping all the time. He never Never goes anywhere.

Never has drink. But he has nice clean house like Swede woman just the same.

That house is everything. He must have somebody in everyone of those rooms or he cry like baby. Sometimes one feller he get sick in room after he is drunk and when French feller see he hit his head against the wall. I see a lot that crazy French feller. I do not go to bed until eight o'clock in the morning and the German feller he does not want to see me until nine o'clock at night. If I come in saloon when I am not working they will not let me have the free lunch. They will not even let me buy a glass of beer if I say I will not have

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any of the lunch. The German feller and the bar-tenders, they yell, "Get out of here, you crazy Swede!"

Pretty soon that is what the customers call me, too. I have to go around all the time in that place on Third Avenue cleaning everything up and sometimes when I get to a corner there will be two or three fellers there and they will yell, "Get out of here, you crazy Swede!" Some of them even put me into a song they sing all the time like the Swedes sing about the war with the [Denmarkers?] fellers and everybody. I could not tell you all about the song those German fellers sing but one night they put me into it. They sing, "Is das nicht ein crazy Swede. Ja, das ist ein crazy Swede." Like that. 8 I do not mind. The job Job is not very hard. I only have to clean up until one o'clock in the morning, then all I have to do is stay around in the front of that place until eight o'clock and be like a feller who is policeman. But one night while I am staying out front like that some feller I guess breaks window in back, for when When German feller comes he says there are ten , maybe twelve cases of the whiskey all gone.

He says why do I not stop that feller who comes in? He says I am crazy Swede and I am not to put my nose in that place on Third Avenue again or he will kill me.

Well, I go back to that place of that French feller where I stay and I think that German feller is one crazy feller, all right, harr! But that French feller he is much more crazy. He is there at the door and he has my sailor bag and all my clothes and things. He throws them at me and he says, "That other Swede feller come in here last night and kill himself all over my nice back room. You get the hell out and you do not come back, you crazy Swede!" I do not come back, too, to the crazy French feller. I go down to water-front and I meed meet Swede-feller he says "You got any money, harr?" I say I got a little money. Swede feller say, "You come to me to that Rockport place, harr, there is plenty job in the quarry. So I come.

III

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I first come Rockport, almost forty years gone. Much drink then, [?] fight. Most Americans work quarries then, some Irish, then lots Swede fellers come, some Finns, some Italians. Some Swede fellers like me speak good English been this country long time, been New York, been Boston. Some Swede fellers, but, speak no English, been nobodywhere! They get off train Rockport, all alone, sometime maybe know somebody, got brother, got cousin, got feller same town, next farm maybe. Sometime know nobody.

No English, don't not know nobody. got sign tied on, like on fish, say, "Rockport Granite Company, Rockport, Massachusetts, 9 United States America." Some those fellers work hard, learn English quick, make friend, happy. Other those fellers not so good job, not learn English very good, and, nobody like. Drink a lot, those fellers. Fight a lot those fellers. Sometimes people tell some those fellers get drunk, want back home Sweden, go walk night, fall in quarry, get drowned, die. I don't know. No Swede feller I know fall in quarry.

When I first come Rockport, I come other Swede feller friend mine New York. We speak English smart, got little money, go Swede woman's boarding house down Forrest Street. Come in town one day, get drunk that night, celebrate, go Rockport Granite Company office, say, "We want job, harr?" Boss say, "Go to work." Start right in. We work seven to twelve morning, one to six afternoon. First they put me work load paving on barge. Lot business paving then. Send paving everywhere in world then. Rockport Granite Company get whole lot that business, too. They pay me twelve dollars week I first go work there. Second day I work feller come around say, "You join Union, harr?" I say, "I don't not know." But other Swede feller come with me New York say, "Sure he join union. I join union, too."

So I join union. I belong union all time I work Rockport Granite Company, maybe twenty-five year. After big strike, no more Rockport Granite Company. I still belong union. work other companies, Bay View, Lanesville. Still got my book. Maybe tomorrow feller come me, say, "Hey, Gor, got job for you. Six months job quarry. Good pay. Good boss. No union." I tell him go hell. All old Swede quarry fellers tell him go hell. Finn fellers, either. Anybody

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cut stone Cape Ann Can't have scab job, can't go round say, "You work. He work. Other feller work." Got go union, union give him fellers work, union hours, union pay. Too many union, though.

Quarry-workers union, I belong. Stone-cutters union. Paving cutters union, got national 10 office down Rockport. Sometimes stone-cutters say, "Hey, that's my job." Paving cutters say, "Hey, that's my job." Have strike. Not union against boss. Union against union. No good.

Funny thing, quarry-workers all union men. Fellers work down tool company — sons quarry-workers, lots them, brothers maybe, no union.

Work like hell. In summer hot in front those forgers. In winter still hot, outside cold. Get hurt quick, either. Lots fellers down tool company lose fingers in forge. Finn feller over Lanesville used come round now sell Daily Worker, he lost three, four fingers in hammer come down. I would not want work there. Make tools. all kinds big toold tools . Make wheels I don't not know what for. Make parts airplane factory. Some fellers may make thing go round that Lindbergh plane first time down there. [Dean?] fellers run Tool Company. Brothers. Lindley Dean one brother. Sail boat races. Other brother live Magnolia. You know feller told me? Feller told me that Dean feller brother got wife she die bath-tub. What he do? Make gold bath tub. Still got! I don't know.

I have wife once, six, seven year. You don't not know that, harr? Sure, so long gone sometime I think I don't not know that, too. I am in Rockport no more six months I get married Lutheran Church young Swede girl come over here get job. She get job Boston all right , maid rich family, come down here sometime , see friends , Swede family we get married. She no good wife. You don't like that, harr? Lots fellers got wife no good , say she good. Lots fellers got wife good , treat her no good. I got wife not good , say she no good , treat her good. Do not Not have her long. Just six, seven year. She pretty, that wife, but no good for wife. I like lots boys, girls. She like no boys, girls all. After I got wife, we

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move company house. Don't have move company house you don't like. Move anywhere. Company can't make move company house. Union won't let. But good house, don't cost no more.

Don't have trade company store, either. [?] trade company store.

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Cost little more, but stuff better. No more company store. No more company. No more wife. Company send team around every day deliver, get order. Lots teams, lots horses on Cape I come here. No buses then, too. Street cars, go all around Cape. Sometime go Sunday for ride. In summer, no sides in summer, all look front seats, conductor walk around sides, get money.

I tell you why I live company house, trade company store. Sometime company fire fellers. Not for union man. Not for poor job. Just no business. You live own house, rent somebody's house, trade somebody's store, maybe company fire you. They do not get hurt. But live company house, trade company store, fire you, don't get rent, don't get trade. That my wife she don't like be my wife. I don't think she like be anybody's wife. All time she say this no good, that no good, no clothes, no people, no go somewhere. One time she go somewhere all right!

I come home one night she gone. Feller say she go off with fisherman over Gloucester. I don't know. All right she don't come back. One time nine, ten years after I drink beer place in Gloucester feller say me, "See that feller, Gor? That feller over there feller run off your wife."

I look at that feller. He look at me. We don't say nothing, harr!

After that wife she go my sister, her husband come over from old country live with me. They got two boys. When they come got one boy.

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Nela. Pretty soon got another boy. Henry. That husband my sister. Nice feller. Quiet. No fight. No drink. Just smoke, give my sister all his money. Very happy that husband my sister. Feller say him, "Hey, you think you ever go back?" He say, "Sure. When they build a bridge!" Very funny. He don't go back, but. No. He paving-cutter. Good paving-cutter. Paving-cutter should wear mask. Paving-cutter doesn't wear mask. Company got. Lot dust. Stone dust. Got consumption. Company got masks, but paving-cutter don't wear. That husband my sister got consumption. Can't work. Spit blood. Give up job paving-cutter.

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Just quarry-worker like me. Can't do that, too. Go home. Go doctor. No good. Die. Reason paving-cutter don't like mask, don't like feel, can't do so much work. Piece-work paving cutting.

That [Nels?], my sister's boy, smart boy, strong boy, get good marks school, go off war, only sixteen. He run away, lie to them. Tell them other name, say nineteen years old, come from Minnesota. Go off war, be soldier, got two, three letters, then die. War no good, I think sometime. Not for poor man. Rich man all right, make money, sell guns, poor man get killed. That's what socialist say. I am socialist. All Swede fellers most is socialists. Harr? Sure I vote. Always vote. Last ten, fifteen year I vote. Vote straight they call. Vote Republican.

Maybe you see in paper like I see King and Queen England make trip this country have visit, harr? I like that king. He will not let everybody tell him what to do. He make up his mind, want marry some woman. Feller say, "No. Not marry this woman. Marry some other woman.

Marry nobody woman." King say, "You go hell, harr. I marry woman I want, you go marry woman you want, mind your business, harr, I mind mine!"

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He is not scared fellers. What he care? He is King. In Sweden they got King, too. Almost hundred year old that Swede King, strong, good feller. Everybody like. Nonneed No need soldier, no need guard. Go everywhere, nobody hurt, everybody like. Feller say, "Hello, King." King say, "Hello feller." King they got Sweden socialist. I guess King they got England socialist either. Don't care rich people. Friend to poor feller.

I tell you funny thing. I been here United States forty year gone more, still I don't know American King who. Don't say papers. People don't say. Know President. President Roosevelt. Roosevelt President thirty year ago. [Now?] some more. I guess pretty soon no, harr? Lots people don't like. Give money poor people. But where get money, harr? You don't know. I don't know.

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Roosevelt don't know, harr! Maybe soon that [Salt nstall?] be President, harr? Everybody like. I don't know any. Still don't know American King. Ask. Say, "Who King, harr?" Feller says, "No King." I say, "King die?" Feller say, "Don't die. Don't live, don't die." i guess that King scared, harr? People know who, they hurt. Got have King, though. I read in book. You do not think I read in book, harr? Sure, I read.

English I read, either. Good. That crazy nephew me, crazy, he could read, he go school, college, he could read. Sometime he read like I read, Boston American. Sometime he read Gloucester Times. Don't read book, but. I read book. I read lots book.

"Last summer I read book all about American war. Civil war. All about that Lincoln. Great man, that Lincoln. He have war with niggers.

No niggers Sweden. No niggers Rockport. Before that Lincoln some niggers run what call South. Everywhere niggers run. Lincoln come, say niggers stop. Niggers say, "No. We won't stop." Tell Lincoln go to hell. Lincoln have war, make niggers stop, harr! Put in jail. Put all niggers in jail. Daily Worker try get them out. Can't get them out. Lincoln won't let.

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Roosevelt won't let. Four five year ago they have nigger women over folly Cove, feller tell me, work in rich summer people house, like Sweden woman Finn woman. I don't see. Feller tell me. Not there now, harr.

When I say that Henry my nephew he is crazy I tell you he is crazy! Yesterday. What does he do yesterday? Yesterday he go down dump back of Philbrook's find old bottles, old engine parts, old [?] pipe, bring 'em home, clean 'em up, walk to Gloucester sell 'em to junkman for money half a pint of Crab Orchard. O. K. Maybe I am broke, I am young feller, I got no job, maybe then I want have drink. That's no not so crazy. After he have drink everything up he start walk home. Five miles Gloucester. Five miles back.

What he care? He got nothing else to do. He has not had regular job almost ten year.

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He go Rockport High School two three years. Last year of all he go Gloucester High School. Say better High School. I don't know. Then he go two years to the Burdett's college and college gets him job way over in Boston automobile place, work in office. Six year he work there every day not on Sunday. Have to be there eight o'clock. Get up five o'clock have breakfast, feller give him ride get first train six o'clock in morning. He could not get there right he take seven o'clock train. Get in Boston they got North Station he got plenty time walk to automobile place out what they call Commonwealth Avenue. Save ten cents, too. He work until after six o'clock. Too much after six o'clock got six thirty train back. Got seven thirty train back. Most of time walk home from station, sometimes get ride. Feller who always give him ride in morning work on railroad section gang, call him [gandy-dancer?]. Henry does not pay that feller, only sometime buy him cigarettes, Christmas get him neckties. Feller give him ride at night sometime, give those fellers nothing. What the hell? They say, "You want ride, harr?" He say, "Sure." Never get home maybe nine o'clock when get ride, almost half past when have to walk. Sometime rain snow too hard walk, no ride wait for bus, not home almost ten o'clock. Not much life for him, harr? Get home, eat, go right bed, got get up five o'clock.

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Got make money, though. Got work. No money, no live. No work, no money. I guess maybe he first go work that Boston he make eleven twelve dollars week. Two three years he get raise make fourteen dollar. Not so much, harr? cost fifteen, twenty dollars month railroad. Gotta take lunch, sometime even have lunch, say, "What the hell?" Go buy coffee, piece pie, too. O. K. I do, too, I him. Got bus fare sometime. Got car fare Boston sometime rain snow. Sometime rain snow get off train boston North Station take car get out work place not open half hour. Can not stand out-door in rain snow.

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Go in restaurant keep warm dry. Have to buy you go in restaurant, harr! They will not let you go in restaurant you do not buy. Coffee, sure, something maybe.

Got have nice suit, too, got wear hat, have clean shirt, shine shoes. Lose job not have nice suit, wear hat, clean shirt, shine shoes.

After that Henry crazy pay me his mother board, no have money for him. He never even have smoke, that feller. Never have girl, too. No time have girl. How you get girl you busy five o'clock morning nine ten o'clock night, go to bed nine ten o'clock night, sleep five o'clock morning?

Too tired have girl, too. No money. Girl does not like feller no money. Got plenty of money always have girl, have pretty girl, have good time. No money, girl say, "What the hell!"

You know I think that feller Henry true he never undress woman once at all! Now he thirty-five, thirty-six year old, never take woman to bed at all! Harr! Sometime I am thirty-five, thirty-six year old I take fifty women to bed, pretty women, fat women, all kinds women. Not altogether, though. Different times. That Henry feller he like, too, you bet! Anytime some woman go by he go look out window at her. Crazy feller! Yesterday he drink up Crab Orchard over Gloucester, come back, get ride, have supper. After supper long comes Finn

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feller Stockholm Avenue, say, "Hello, Gor, you go sauna, harr?" I say, "You go to hell with that sauna!" Henry though, Henry say, "Sure I go." You ever go sauna, harr?

sauna crazy! Just Finn fellers have sauna. Swede fellers they do not have him. In sauna everybody take off clothes. Summer. Winter. Take off clothes just same. They got fire under rocks. Throw on water. Make steam. You can't breathe. Once I am drunk I go sauna. I never go again even I am drunk. Yesterday that Henry he is not drunk. He only had pint Crab Orchard. Cannot get drunk pint Crab Orchard. Cannot get drunk quart. He go, anyway. You know what? I do not think he go sauna he like sauna. I think he go sauna just he go somewhere.

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Someday maybe feller come [?], say, "Hey, Henry, you go Halibut point, harr, jump in ocean, maybe stay there, harr?" I think that Henry go!

When he have that job Boston place that Henry say sometime, "Hell with job. All time go to job, work at job, come from job, no fun, no money, no girl. Maybe I tell job go to hell, harr?" You know what he say now? "If I have that job more," he say, "I get up three o'clock morning, not get home two o'clock morning, work twice as hard, get only nine ten dollars, I happiest man in all this world." But he don't got job more. I think he never got job more. Paper may good business now, better business soon. Maybe. I hope. but better business soon they don't want that Henry. What good feller do nothing much nine ten years? Like old man. That Henry he only thirty-five thirty-six years he like old man. They do not want him. They want young feller, quick, happy, lot life. Tell him, "Do that," he run do it. Tell Henry, "Do that,"

he don't know what hell do.

Sure. Nine ten years boss say Henry, "Sorry. No job. [All through.?] Lay off ten, twelve girls fellers. Try keep married men, maybe lay off them, too." Henry come home then, read papers, write letters to people say in papers they want hire somebody. Got ride Boston,

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got ride Lynn, got ride Lawrence, Salem, Beverly look for job. No job for him. But he keep look for job like that two three years. Sometime I give him dollar two dollar, go on train, buy stamps letter, buy paper, get new shirt. But pretty soon suits all gone, shoes all gone, nobody want feller like that. Then he just look for job Rockport, Gloucester, try over in [Ipswich?] the mills. No job for him. He cannot work in tool company, not strong even if there is job. When he young go high school, strong, husky, but after work in that Boston all day, ride on train, sit by desk, write in book, all soft, weak. Only strong feller work that tool company.

17

If quarry run maybe get job time keeper or in office, but quarry run nothing. And that Henry he could not get job [Gorton Power Birdseye?].

He cannot stand smell of fish. Make him sick. Make him throw up. Stomach no good. That why he cannot go with me after the lobster. In harbor all right, but once boat past [buoy?] he sick. No good then. No good at all. Better have nobody in launch after lobster but him. He worse from nobody. He in way. Be in own way, that Henry feller.

For little while once two time he has WPA job. Not too soft, weak for that. Nobody too soft weak that WPA job. No work to do. Just hold shovel, throw little dirt, rest, throw rock, hold shovel some more. That made me sick. Sometime was five six feller lift little stone on drag I life lift one hand, harr! But Henry lost that WPA job, too. They lay off the single [fellers?], do not need job keep wife, [?] children. Just have keep himself that Henry, cannot do that! I take care his mother, my sister, and she got little pension, anyway, other son, Henry's brother kill in war.

Sometime I get angry that Henry, harr. You think feller like that no good anything he keep mouth shut anyway, harr. Yesterday he crazy.

No come back after that sauna, say, "What to eat?" I say, "[Hamburg?], pound half good [hamburg?], cost forty-five cents." Henry say, "Where you get forty-five cents, harr?" I tell

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him. What the hell? I tell him I sell two lobsters. Bad day. Only two lobsters, all I catch. That Henry go crazy. He say, "Why you not bring lobsters home, we eat, harr? Four times this week we eat god-damned [hamburg?]. Why we do not eat lobster?" Crazy that Henry. He cannot understand. I work all morning, catch two lobsters, bring home, eat them, make nothing for all work.

Sell lobsters, make forty-five cents. Buy hamburg. Not much, but something. Crazy, that Henry, harr! 18 Feller was tell me very funny thing. Feller say they got law now say you cannot ship dead lobster from Boston down to Maine. Only can ship live lobster. Why they want ship any lobster down Maine, harr? They got lobster down Maine, they got plenty lobster. You know where Consolidated Lobster Company is, harr? Is over Bay View, dock where used be Rockport Granite Quarry Company blood-lodge quarry. Got pink granite there, good granite. Sometime I work that quarry. I never work that Consolidated Lobster Company, harr. I never sell get him some lobster. Nobody ever sell him some lobster. You know where he get his lobster, harr? Get him down Maine, down Nova Scotia. Ship him in by airship. You go over some time you can see. Sometimes put in truck, send Boston, put in plane, send New York. Sure, put live lobster from Nova Scotia in airship, send New York summer people!

I see airship. One time I am over Dog Team got blueberries, I hear airship, look up, see airship, very low, got sign, Consolidated Lobster Company, Gloucester, Massachusetts. You know what be funny thing, harr? Be funny thing feller catch lobster down Maine, put on airship, bring to Bay View, put on truck, send to Boston, lobster die, put on train, ship down to Maine, somebody eat! I tell you one thing more funny that, happen all time. You go down First National Store, Rockport, get fish. Rockport fish? I do not think Rockport fish. You want Rockport fish got go down Bearskin neck. First National Store Fish come from Boston market. There's feller down Pigeon Cove call him Parks, catch fish, buy fish, ship to Boston market. Does not sell fish in Pigeon Cove. Sure you go down fish come in, say, "Want haddock, want cod." He sell you.

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But no business that. [Most?] business ship Boston.

19

All right. Pigeon Cove feller go fish. Catch haddock. Sell [?]. Parks ship Boston, fish go on train, maybe. First National feller Boston buy fish, put on truck, bring back Rockport. Maybe wife feller next door Pigeon Cove feller fish, say, "Have chowder tonight. Get haddock." Go over First National buy haddock, caught in front yard but go Boston for trip! You go down First National store Pigeon Cove some time, say, for fun, "Give me [can?] mackeral." They give you can mackeral all right. Where come that mackeral harr? Come Rockport? Come Gloucester? Come California. Sure!

I tell you one thing more funny both. Get relief over Rockport. Got [matress?], got sweater, got shoes. Got grapefruit, got canned meat, got potatoes. Got relief over Gloucester, either. One time feller tell [me?] train come Gloucester, got nine ten car-loads food for relief.

Got grapefruit? Got potatoes? Got salt fish California!

I never like eat fish. I eat fish. Never like. East [?]. Eat [hake?]. Like go over [Folly?] Cove seven o'clock night, get Old England [hake?]. Not sell, eat. Best like [?] cod. Like eyes of cod. Not many fellers like. You know what feller tell me? Feller tell me there's feller got place sell lobster dinner. Big place. Everybody come, pay two three dollar, have lobster dinner. Go home tell everybody. "You should go that place. Have good lobster dinner!" Lobster. Harr! You know what that feller tell me? Feller tell me feller has place mix lobster meat cod-[?], cost less, taste good, nobody know difference! I would not like pay two three dollar that kind lobster dinner!

Sometime I sell lots lobsters, make lots money, buy new hat, new suit, new shoes, you know what I [am?] do, harr? I [am?] go Boston, go in bar, see pretty girl. Feller tell me they got lots bars Boston, lots pretty girl. I go up her, say, "Hello, I am Gor, I got lots money,

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you come with me, harr?" Feller 20 say she come with me. I do not want do bad thing that girl. I would not take chance, get sick. I just want pretty girl with me. We go movies, best movies Boston, pay forty, fifty cents both, I don't care. Then we go back bar, get good drink whiskey. Then we go restaurant have dinner.

You know what we have dinner, harr? We have bake potatoes, and veal cutlets, and Swedish bread, and Swedish coffee, and chicken soup, and Swedish cake, maybe. All we can eat. I bet that girl she never have dinner like that, harr?

One time last summer I go over Rockport Granite Company quarry. walk down on dock, see stone-cutter's sheds, all go to pieces, walk under bridge, along where tracks was, all gone down, pull up, send to Japan. All railroad tracks Rockport pull up, send to Japan. I go by blacksmith shop, all fall to pieces, by power-house, nothing there, all rot. I almost cry I tell you. When I come Rockport four five hundred feller work that quarry, take out stone, cut stone, ship everywhere. Now nobody cut stone at all. Nobody want stone. Now cement, stucco, brick. Just use little bit stone now. Got to let go, got to let go to pieces, got to [let rot?]. Almost make you cry.

Make fine building of granite, beautiful building, last long, last forever. I guess no more Rockport granite buildings, harr? I never think that, I tell you. Feller, farmer, he think, what the hell people always eat wheat, eat potatoes. Feller, fisherman think people always eat cod, eat haddock. Same thing quarry-feller. Says people got have buildings. Got have buildings, want good buildings. Want good buildings, granite best buildings. I think that sometime. I guess no, harr?

21

Quarries full of water now, derricks pull down they do not fall, kill somebody, tracks off Japan make cannon, barges rot, docks like paper.

Quarry-fellers forget how be quarry-fellers. Some could not hold drill now, hit with hammer. Would not know what. You tell me that when I come Rockport I laugh! You tell me that

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back big strike I laugh. We had big strike back 1925, everybody go out, company won't pay union scale.

Won't go back but get union scale. How long you think strike last, harr? Strike last year, harr! That right. Quarry fellers on't don't go back Rockport Granite Company Quarry one year. Little while get strike benefit, then no. Union no money. Some fellers while strike go work some place else. Few work scab wages some place else. Most don't do nothing. Company try run quarry with Italians and guards. Cannot do it, no. Italians don't cut enough stone drown cat. They put let them in house near Peter Bernard's garage.

Some nights strikers throw stones house, do not want hurt, just scare.

[Bimeby?] company settle, union win, but one year long time be on strike. The company some feller tell me, lose million dollars try break that strike. After that quarries do not work long. Cut stone entrances big tunnel New York and big bridge down Rhode Island. Pretty soon close. I guess those Rogers fellers spend too much time Country Club, not enough time quarry. Year long time strike. One time in war they have strike in Rockport not last year. Last day. Not quarrymen. Cablemen. Over cable station. Company do lot business. Men want more pay.

Company say no. One night all same time men work for cable company go on strike, Rockport, either. Next morning, company raise pay, harr!

Other strike over Gloucester one time funny thing happen. Stocking factory on strike. [Ipswich?] mills. Company get big crowd strike-breakers come Wisconsin. Come automobiles. All come automobiles. One morning they cannot find fifteen, twenty automobiles. They do not look at bottom 22 of quarry-pit, harr!

When Rockport Granite Company close up I think not for long. Business bad. Pretty soon business good. Old wood buildings wear out, old wood bridges fall down, somebody die, got have status. I think, either, maybe Rogers brothers not such good business men.

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Maybe some other business man come Rockport, buy quarries, give everybody job. Not yet. Feller come now. Got buy pumps, put up derricks, lay tracks, build shops, get barges, machines, tools. Got get men, too. Lot quarry men here you think, harr? Lot used-be quarry men! Like me.

I got little work now then after company close up. I work Leonard Johnson's little while. I work little while Fitzgibbon's over Lanesville. There was work two three years ago some fellers. Build break-water Newburyport, got have stone. No job for me then. I fisherman then. Other feller me set trawls off halibut point get cod, get pollock, get bake. Some weeks one week ten make week's pay, make twenty-five dollar. Most weeks make money for gas, for bait, for paint for boat, few pennies beside. I give that up. I give feller my share fishing boat for small gas launch and skiff. I find few lobster-pots, fix up, find more. Now I lobsterman for good, I guess. Not once make ten dollars week yet, half time make five, half time nothing.

No more quarry work I guess fifteen, twenty years. Then work. Much work then, harr! Then all buildings, bridges, roads made last ten fifteen years go pieces. You see. Everybody see. Stucco no good, concrete no good, only granite good. Everybody want granite then. Nobody want something else ever some more. Quarries open again. Quarries stay open, harr! Everybody got job! Quarry job!